



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/719,494	11/21/2003	Pierre Mansur		2530

7590 07/13/2006

Robert M. Downey
ROBERT M. DOWNEY, P.A.
Suite 300
601 South Federal Highway
Boca Raton, FL 33432

EXAMINER

PATEL, RITA RAMESH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1746

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

5

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/719,494	Applicant(s) MANSUR, PIERRE	
	Examiner Rita R. Patel	Art Unit 1746	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Acknowledgement has been made of applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. This application claims benefit of 60/428,978.

Drawings

The drawings received 11/21/03 are acceptable for examination purposes.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mansur (US Patent No. 5,388,601) and further in view of Rich et al. herein referred to as "Rich" (US Patent No. 5,924,431).

Mansur teaches an apparatus for washing paint spray guns 120 and associated equipment with a liquid solvent for the purpose of cleaning and removing paint therefrom after use in painting operations. The apparatus includes a cleaning chamber 14 having solvent dispersing nozzles 30 therein, the nozzles being structured and disposed for spraying the liquid solvent onto exterior and interior surfaces of the spray

gun, paint canister and other equipment supported within the cleaning chamber for cleaning thereof. The used solvent is collected in a holding chamber having a float switch therein which activates a solenoid controlled valve 44, 46 upon the used solvent reaching a predetermined level, releasing the contaminated solvent into a distillation chamber 50 for boiling. Purified vapors pass through a condenser 80 where they are cooled to a liquid state, yielding pure solvent which is directed into a clean solvent tank. A pump 100 circulates the purified solvent from the clean solvent holding tank 90 to the dispersing nozzles 30 in the cleaning chamber (Abstract). This reads on applicant's claims for a cleaning spray paint gun comprising a first distillation chamber, a pump, heaters, and a condenser. Inherently, discharge of the pump 100 branches off into a flow-line system of various lines leading to the dispersing spray nozzles 30 (col. 6, lines 15-17), thus the pump discharges solution under pressure. Also, as taught by Mansur in '601, because the used solvent is collected in a holding chamber having afloat switch therein which activates a solenoid valve upon the used solvent reaching a predetermined level, and considering a steady outflow of a determined amount of cleaning solution, the time at which the wash cycle occurs is also inherently a predetermined period of time, hence reading on applicant's claim for a time wash cycle.

Mansur teaches the claimed invention, except fails to teach a second distillation chamber and respectively a second pump, as well as a movably supported wash basin for selective positioning in fluid communication with the first and second distillation chambers. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have incorporated a second pump coupled to a second distillation

Art Unit: 1746

chamber for processing cleaning fluid therein and a wash basin that is movable between said first and second distillation chambers, because it would have supported a speedier and efficient cleaning process. By providing two operable distillation chambers for containing and regenerating cleaning fluid therein, one chamber may be used for real-time cleaning of the spray paint gun apparatuses, while the other chamber is concurrently cleansing the cleaning solution. It is well known in the art of cleaning paint spray guns, as taught by Mansur in '601 that the solvent used for cleansing such spray guns is considered a cost efficient and environmentally friendly alternative when distilled and reused in such a system (col. 3, lines 5-11). By offering a duplication of the single distillation chamber and pump as taught in Mansur '601, time would be saved by allowing the user to clean spray paint gun apparatus using a second pump and distillation chamber, while the first distillation chamber is cleaning contaminated solvent. It is well settled that the mere duplication of parts has no patentable significance unless a new and unexpected result is produced. *In re Harza*, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960).

Furthermore, Rich teaches a cleaning apparatus 10 for cleaning electronic components therein by conveying the items to be cleansed along a conveyor assembly 18; conveyor 18 operates three separate conveyors for moving containers and the electronic components therein through the apparatus in the direction of arrow 32: an entry conveyor 20, a washing conveyor 22, and a rinse/dry conveyor 24 (Abstract; col. 3, lines 4-7). As seen in Figure 7, solvent container 86 and rinse container 98, in conjunction with respective filters 85, 97, are used for cleansing the desired electronic components. Thus, Rich teaches the combination of cleaning electronic components

Art Unit: 1746

with a plurality of cleansing solution chambers. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate such multiplicity of solvent cleaning containers and means for moving the items to be cleansed therein from one container to another container, in the Mansur Patent '601, for achieving controllable and increased cleaning from multiple cleaning containers, in addition to teaching cleansing within a section of the apparatus without necessitating contamination of cleaning solution in another separate section and thus reinforcing aforementioned timewise, financial, and environmental motivations for purporting such a combination of Mansur further in view of Rich. Although the solvent containers of Rich are not stately distillation chambers coupled to a pump, the teaching of Rich provides a disclosure supporting the obviousness of incorporating multiple cleansing containers in the Mansur Patent '601.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rita R. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-8701. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571) 272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RRP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MICHAEL BARR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER